SUPERMAN
ACTION COMICS
789
MAY.02
KELLY
ROULEAU
ALQUIZA
GRANT
DOG HOUSE OF SOLITUDE
KRYPTO
DIRECT SALES
$2.25 US $3.75 CAN
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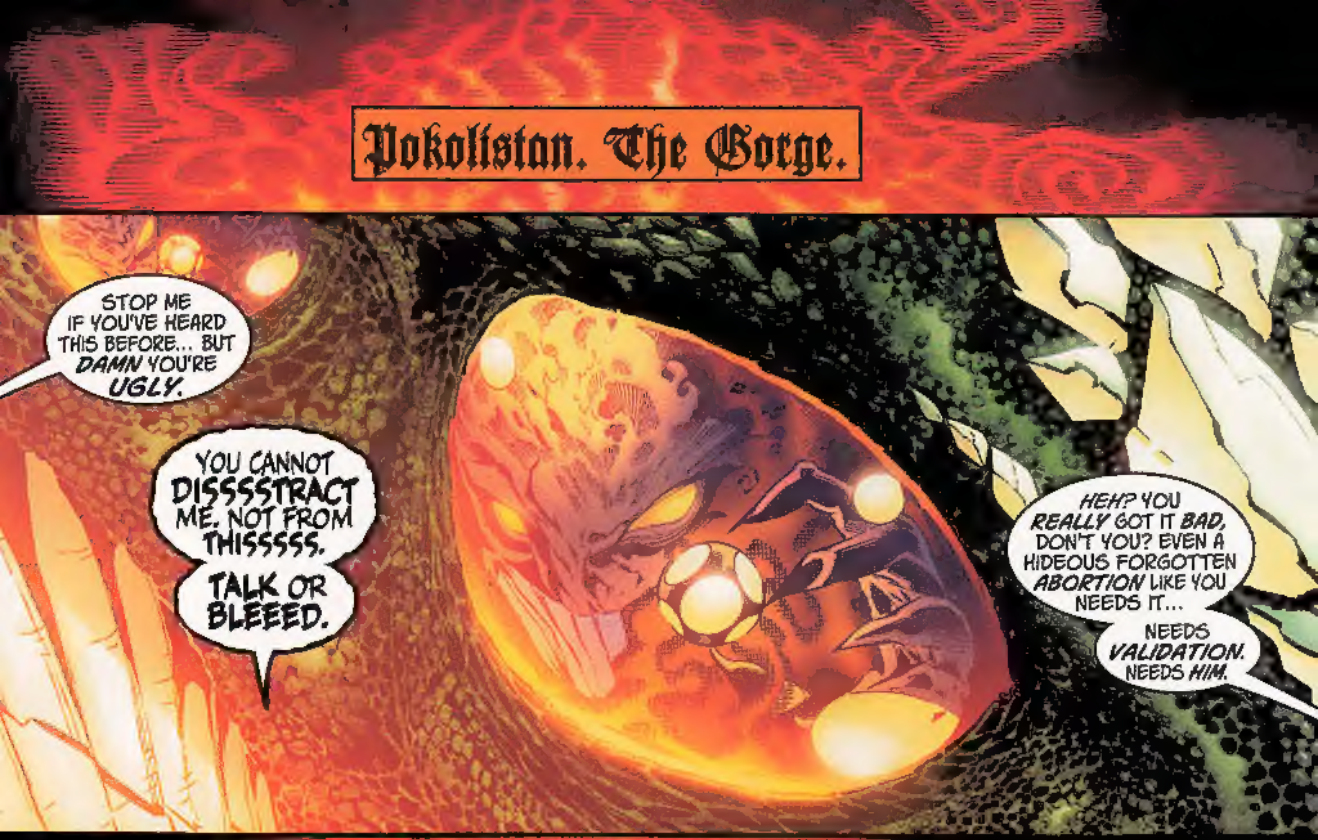
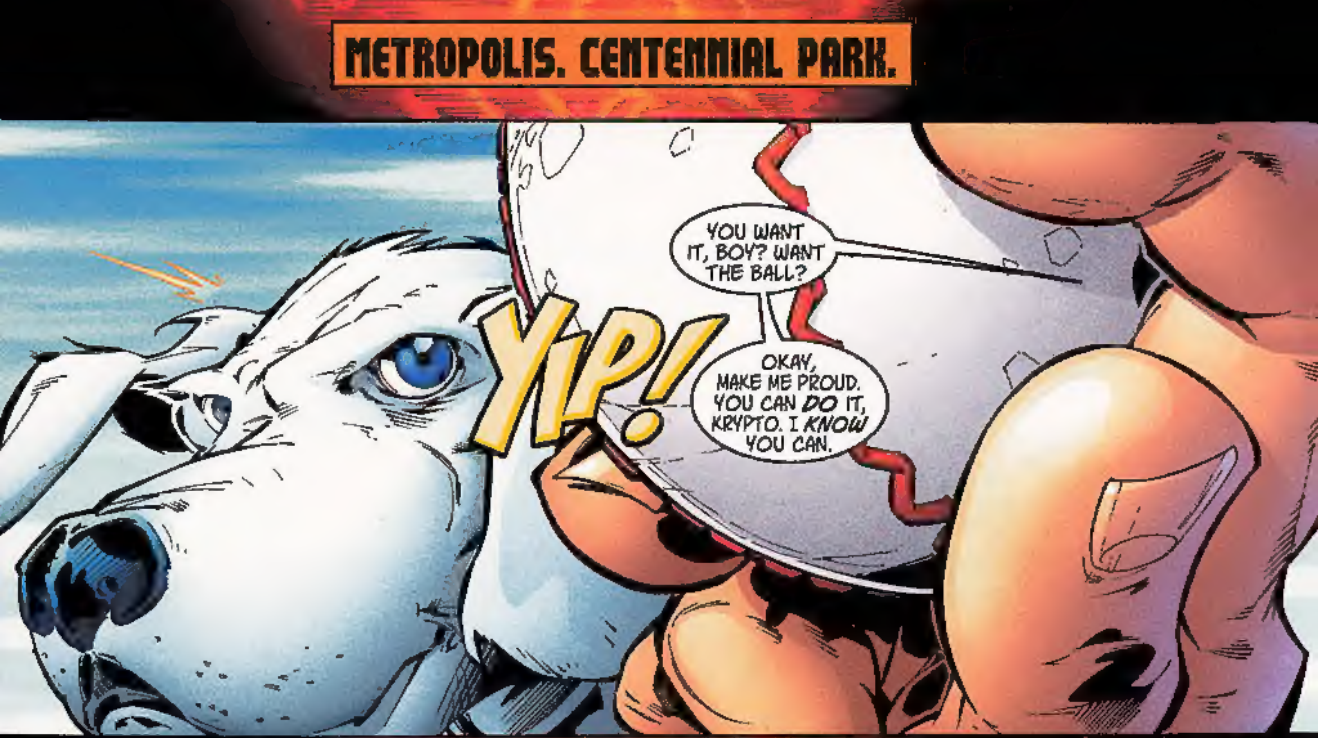

Pokolistan. The Gorge.
STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS BEFORE... BUT DAMN YOU'RE UGLY.
YOU CANNOT DISSSSTRACT ME. NOT FROM THISSSSS.
TALK OR BLEEED.
HEH? YOU REALLY GOT IT BAD, DON'T YOU? EVEN A HIDEOUS FORGOTTEN ABORTION LIKE YOU NEEDS IT...
NEEDS VALIDATION. NEEDS HIM.



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YOU WON'T GET IT. YOU *REALIZE* THAT, DON'T YOU?
HE CAST YOU OUT. *LITERALLY.* FROM HIS *BODY.* IF I WAS YOU --
YOU ARRRRE NOT ME.
YOU KNOW NOTHINGG.
I KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE *FORGOTTEN.* TO BE *LEFT BEHIND.*
I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO *HATE* THOSE YOU *LOVE*... AND TO *LOVE* THE ONES YOU *FEAR.*
WHAT DO YOU THINK *"PAPA ZOD"* WILL DO WHEN HE *CATCHES* YOU OUT HERE --?
DON'T TALK ABOUT HIMMMM!
AWW, *YEAH* THAT'S RIGHT. *WHO'S* YOUR *DOGGIE DADDY?*
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO START *KISSING* HIM, ARE YOU? *DOG BREATH* IS A *DEFINITE* TURNOFF.
HE MAKES THE *DOUBLE PLAY!* AND, I MIGHT ADD, *WITHOUT* PUNCTURING THE *FRISBEE* OR THE *BALL* --
OR YOUR *HAND* OR A *STEEL GIRDER*... OKAY, I'M *SLIGHTLY* IMPRESSED.

EASY, KILLER... DON'T BUST A HERNIA ALL OVER ME.
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GIT SCAIRT AND TAKE ALL MY TOYS AWAY... UNLESS MAYBE YOU ALREADY HAVE A TELEPORT CRYSTAL? A HIDDEN POCKET SOMEWHERE NASTY?
NO.
...
PLEASSSSE... HELP ME SEE FATHER.
THERE'S A GOOD BOY.
GOOD BOY. THAT'S A GOOD BOY.
ARF!
WELL, LOIS? DOES HE PASS THE TEST?
OH, YOU LEAP OUT OF A ROCKWELL PORTRAIT AND I'M SUPPOSED TO SAY "NO"?

I THINK WE GOT HER. WELCOME HOME, KRYPTO...
YOU EARTH DOG, YOU.
YIP!
YOU TWO HAVE BEEN BUSY.
YEAH, WELL... MY WIFE WAS OFF FINDING HERSELF. A GUY WHO NEEDS NO SLEEP HAS TO DO SOMETHING TO PASS THE TIME.
YOU SHOULD SEE THE SKYSCRAPER COZY I KNITTED.
I'M ASSUMING THAT WASN'T A SHOT.
IF IT WAS, WOULD I STILL BE STANDING?
POINT TAKEN... UNLESS YOU'RE JUST PLACATING ME NOW --
LOIS... TOUGH AS IT MAY HAVE BEEN, I'M GLAD YOU TOOK THAT TRIP WITH YOUR MOM. I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY ADMITTED YOUR FEELINGS TO ME ABOUT EVERYTHING... THE WAR... YOUR FATHER...
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE A TEAM AGAIN.
LIKE WE'RE IN THE SAME PLACE, EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY.
TEAM KENT, BACK IN ACTION. YEAH. IT FEELS GREAT...
BY THE WAY, I STILL HAVEN'T ACTUALLY SAID "YES" ABOUT THE DOG COMING BACK TO LIVE WITH US.
LOIS, WE'RE HAVING A MOMENT HERE... LET'S JUST ENJOY THE SILENCE.
AREN'T WE SO SMOOTH?
I LIKE TO THINK SO.

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WHACKO
IF
YOU'RE
A TEEN
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CARROT SEASON - CAN YOU AND ELMER OUTWIT THAT WASCALLY WABBIT?

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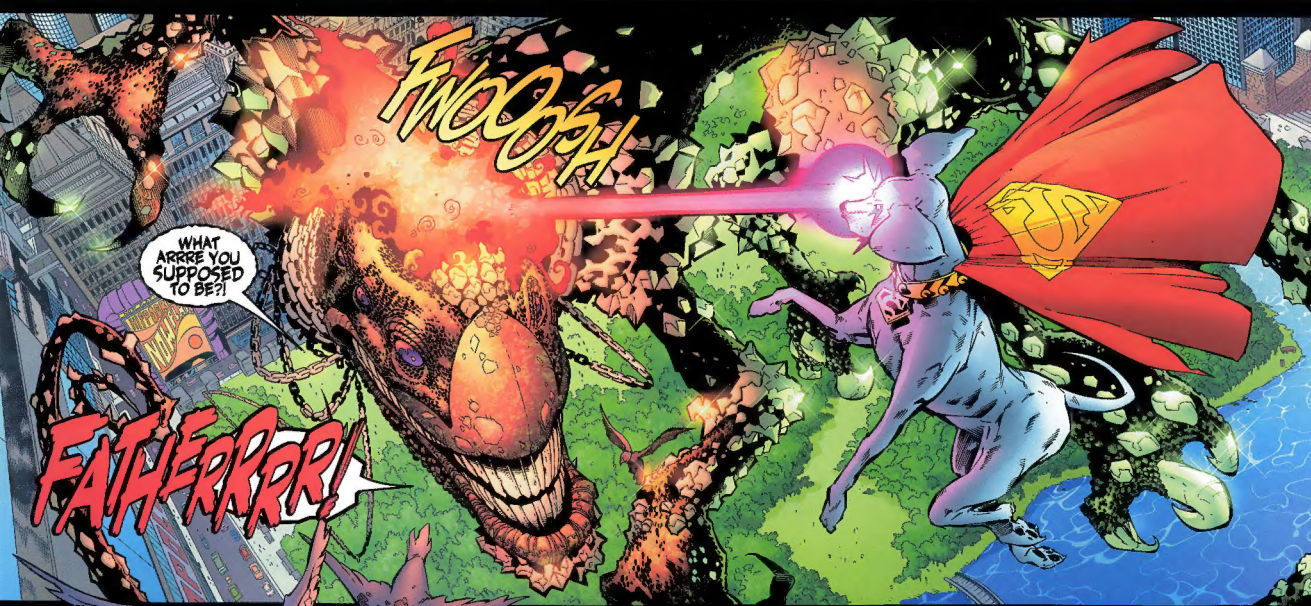
:SIGH: OKAY, WE CAN GIVE IT A WEEKEND TEST RUN, BUT I SWEAR IF I FIND KRYPTONITE NUGGETS IN ANY OF MY SHOES, CLOSETS, ETCETERAS, I'LL --
YOU WON'T. I PROMISE. HE'S REALLY A GREAT DOG, LOIS, HE JUST NEEDS SOME --
--TRAINING--!
ROWRRR!
KRYPTO, NO!
KRYPTO!
WE ARE DEFINITELY GOING TO REVISIT THAT WHOLE SECRET IDENTITY TRICK...
GRRRRR
HEY! C'MERE -- WHOOLF!
KRASSSSH



MAN & BEAST

Doomed Planet Krypton. The rocket. A child. Journey across cold space. Earth. Smallville. Crash-landing. The Kents. Learns TRUTH, JUSTICE and THE AMERICAN WAY. Faster than a Speeding Bullet. Stronger than a Locomotive. A Man can fly. Believe.

SUPERMAN ACTION COMICS!

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MARLO ALQUIZA inker
MOOSE BAUMANN colors COMICRAFT letters TOM PALMER jr.
assistant editor EDDIE BERGANZA editor
SUPERMAN created by SIEGEL & SHUSTER

POKOLISTAN.
A FEW MONTHS AGO, A BANTAM NATION LOST TO A NEARLY FORGOTTEN PAGE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY. TODAY, THE FASTEST-GROWING COUNTRY IN HISTORY...
HOW MANY DEAD TODAY?
...BUT SUFFERING GROWING PAINS NONETHELESS.
FIFTEEN REASONABLE LOSSES CONSIDERING WHAT THEY WERE UP AGAINST, GENERAL --
I DID NOT GIVE THE ORDER TO ENGAGE. THIS WAS A RECONNAISSANCE OPERATION, YES?
YES, GENERAL, BUT AS YOU KNOW THE GORGE IS NOT. A STANDARD TARGET WITHOUT DIRECT CONTACT, WE WOULD NOT HAVE SECURED THE INTELLIGENCE THAT YOU HOLD IN YOUR HAND.
THOSE MEN DID NOT DIE IN VAIN. THE GORGE WILL BE FOUND, SIR. WE WILL DESTROY IT.
YES. WE WILL. POKOLISTAN CANNOT BE UNDERMINED BY THE WILL OF BEASTS... ESPECIALLY NOW
WHO GAVE THE ORDER TO ENGAGE?
I DID. WITH GARVIN, SIR.
VOYESKY WOULD NOT MAKE THE CALL, BECAUSE --
-- BECAUSE HE IS NOT STUPID.
THWK

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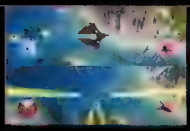

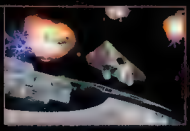

PlayStation 2

POKOLISTAN IS POISED TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT LEAP IN THE WORLD ARENA. THIS ASCENT CANNOT BE INTERRUPTED --
-- NEITHER BY THE "DEMONS" TERRORIZING OUR COUNTRYSIDE, NOR THE OVEZEALOUS HUNTERS SENT TO DESTROY THEM.
FIND THE GORGE. OBSERVE. LEARN. THEN REPORT. UNDERSTOOD, VOYESKY?
(POKOLISTAN TRANSCENDENT GENERAL)?
TRANSLATED FROM A POKOLISTAN DIALECT--ED
HEAVY HANGS THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE HELMET. YES?
COMPLICATIONS, FAORA. NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR COMPLICATIONS.
THE TOOL BIZARRO, SURVIVED DEATH. SUPERMAN CONTINUES TO BREATHE. MONSTERS ROAM MY NATION --
-- SPIT FROM A HOLE IN THE GROUND THAT MOVES.
THIS MUST END.
IGNITION AND KANCER ARE BOTH SCOURING THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR THE GORGE, GENERAL. ONE OF THEM WILL SURELY FIND IT AND --
THEY MUST, FAORA. THESE ARE PRECIOUS DAYS WASTED... AND THERE IS STILL SO VERY MUCH TO BE DONE.
STILL SO MUCH TO PREPARE.
GENERAL... INCOMING TRANSMISSION...
IGNITION HAS LOST KANCER'S BEACON. HE'S GONE.
...
WHERE WAS HE LAST?

there's more
than one way to
share a starburst.
Starburst
isn't life juicy?

WHAMMP
YELP
IRRRITANT. INSULT!
I DID NOT COMMME HERE TO FIGHT, FATHER... BUT THISSS --
MONGRRRREL BEARING YOUR CREST! THISSSS FALSE SKIN YOU WEAR --
BLASPHEMY!
FWAMM
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?!
YOU MADE A TREMENDOUS MISTAKE COMING HERE, KANCER...

YOU'RE MY FATHER. WE SHARE A BONNNND...
NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY TO IGNORE IT, I CANNNNOT.
WE HAVE NO BOND.
HNNGH!
KANCER'S NECROTIC TOUCH, SAPPING MY STRENGTH.
MY LIFE.
COLD.

WHY DO YOU TRY TO HURT ME, FATHERRR?
KTHOOM
WHEN I HAVE COME HERE OUT OF LOVVVE?

JAK AND DAXTER
PlayStation.2
ELECTRONICS
TELEVISIONS
ELECTRONICS
EVERYONE
NAUGHTY DOG

KRYPTO, CAN YOU HEAR ME? KRYPTO!
SUPERMAN NEEDS HELP! CAPISCE!
TOMMY FELL IN THE WELL! THE OLD MILL'S ON FIRE -- COME ON!
SLURP
HUH... JUST LIKE HIS MASTER... ONE SLOPPY KISS AND HE'S OFF
I HAVE SUFFERED SUCHHHH... INDIGNITY. CAST FROM YOUR BODY AS GARBAGE. REFUSED BY YOU AS KINNN...
WHILE OTHERRRRS GARNER YOUR FAVOR -- EVEN A DOG!
NO "KIN" OF MINE WOULD MURDER AND MAIM OR DO ANY OF THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE, KANCER!
YOU KNOW... SO LITTLE ABOUT YOUR OWN BLOOD.

KRASHH
METROPOLIS
WHOA, GOOD DOG.
OKAY, BOY -- GOOD DOG. LET ME HANDLE THIS NOW --
-- I DON'T WANT YOU TOO CLOSE.
WOOF
KRUNNNK
AROOOO!

A-ALL I AMMM... AND YOU PREFERRRR THIS... TOY?
PUT HIM DOWN, KANCER. THIS IS NOT A WAY TO "GAIN MY FAVOR --"
I DID NOT COME TO FIGHT, FATHER! DO YOU REALISSSSE THIS?
THIS MONGREL COMMMES BETWEEN US! DO NOT PUNISH MEEEE -- PUNISH HIM!
I -- I WILL, KANCER. I WILL.
BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO LET HIM GO. THEN WE CAN... TALK.
I AM NOT STUPID, FATHER! DIDN'T I FINNND YOU? EVEN IN YOUR SECOND SKIN? EVEN ACROSSSS THE WORLD?
I BETRAYYYED THE GENERAL TO COME HERE. YOU KNOW THISSS? BETRAYYYED SECOND FATHER FOR YOU... TO --
TO WHAT?
...
I DON'T KNOW.

PlayStation 2
First
airblade
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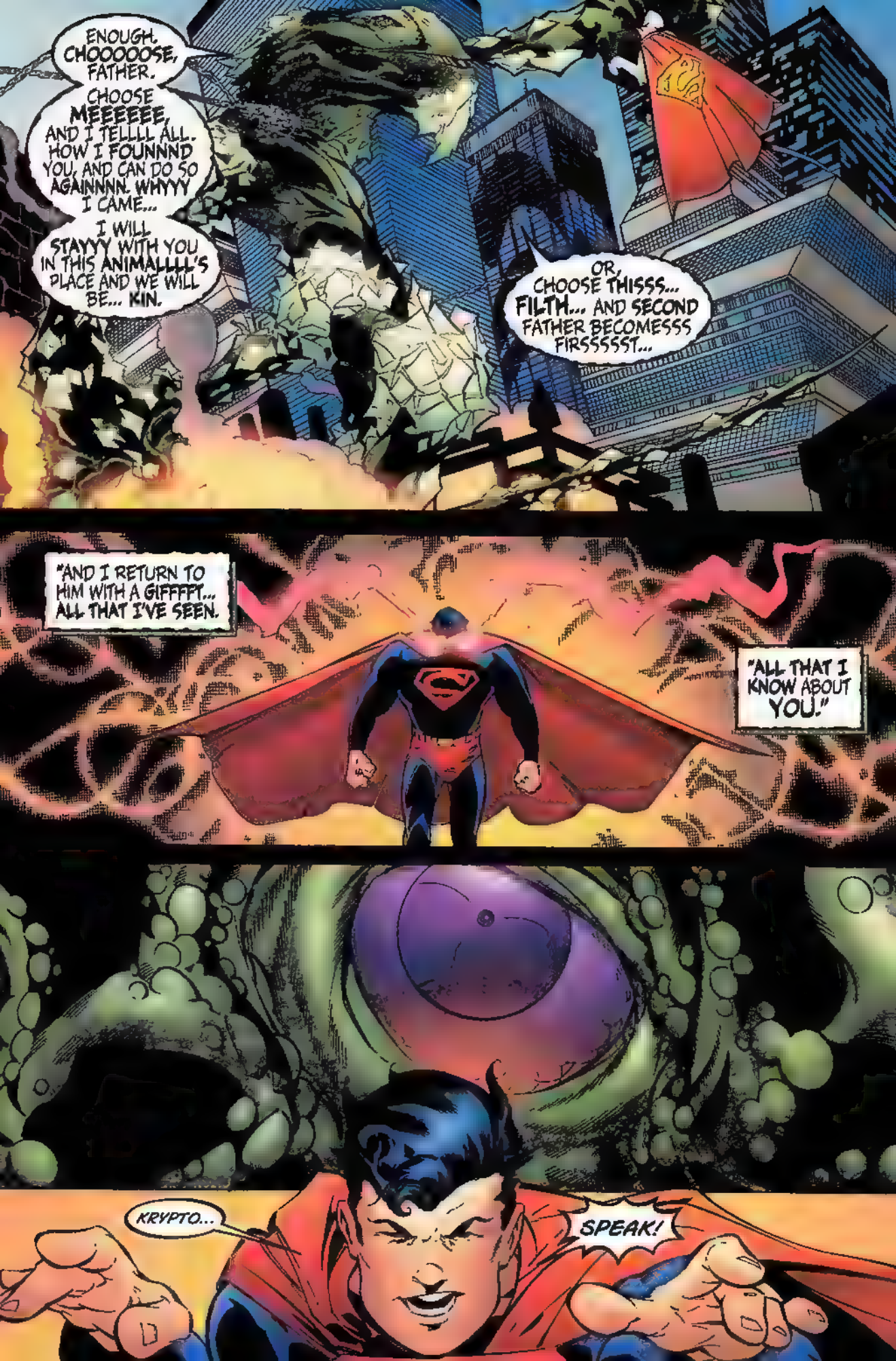
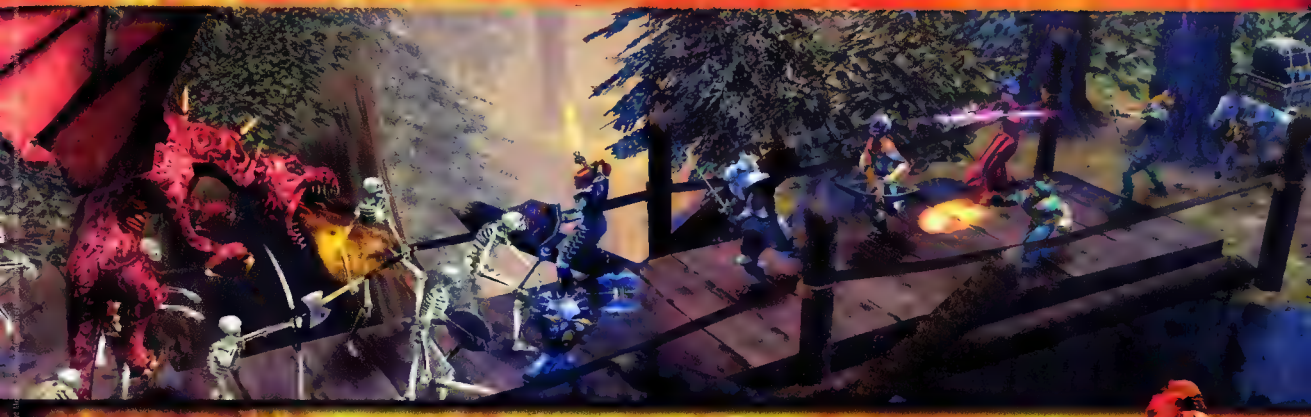

ENOUGH. CHOOOOOSE, FATHER.
CHOOSE MEEEEEE, AND I TELLLL ALL. HOW I FOUNNND YOU, AND CAN DO SO AGAINNNN. WHYYY I CAME...
I WILL STAYYY WITH YOU IN THIS ANIMALLLL'S PLACE AND WE WILL BE... KIN.
OR, CHOOSE THISSS... FILTH... AND SECOND FATHER BECOMESSS FIRSSSSST...
"AND I RETURN TO HIM WITH A GIFFFFT... ALL THAT I'VE SEEN.
"ALL THAT I KNOW ABOUT YOU."
KRYPTO...
SPEAK!

SPEAK!
WOOF
GOOD DOG. YOU'RE OKAY, NOW. GOOD BOY

It's a lot easier to take on an army



when you are one.

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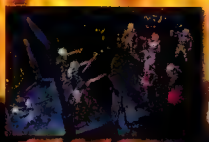

TEEN T VIOLENCE BLOOD

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A DOG. I MEAN LESSSS TO HIM... THAN A DOG.
GOODBYE, FATHERRRR...
I RETURN TO KOKOLISTAN... TO TELL ZOD ALL I KNOWWW...
EXPECT AN UNPLEASSSSANT HOMECOMING.
KANCER -- WAIT! YOU CAN'T --!
GRRRR
HZZZASHHH
NO.

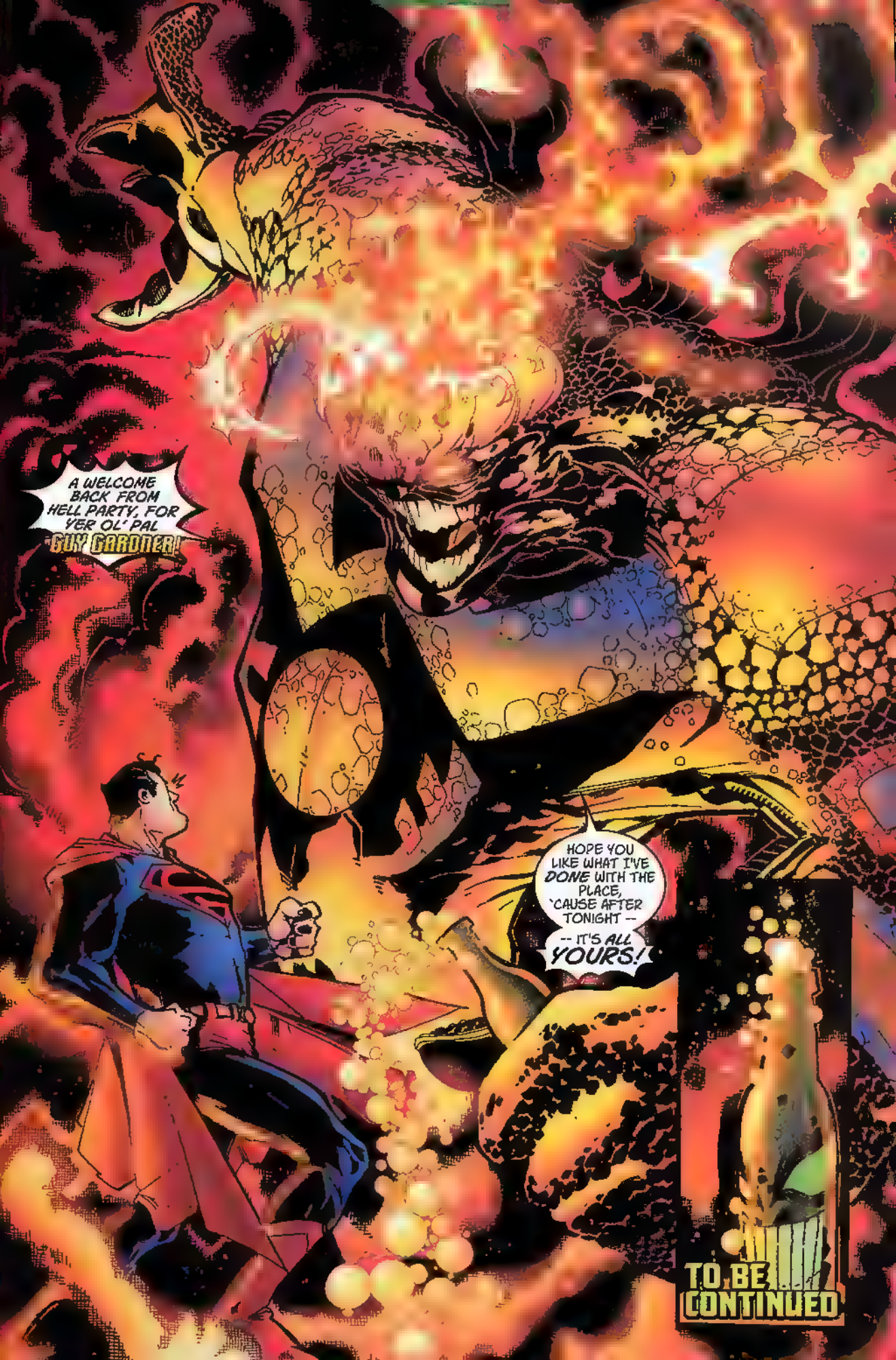
HOW LONG AGO WAS HE HERE?
UNKNOWN. I ARRIVED JUST BEFORE YOU DID. THE BERCON SIGNAL WAS INCONCLUSIVE —
— BUT HE WAS IN THE GORGE WHILE IT WAS HERE.
BETRAYAL?
UNKNOWN. THE MONSTER DOES... FEEL. BUT...

YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED BY WHAT A "MONSTER" IS CAPABLE OF FEELING, IGNITION.
TELEMETRY REPORTS THAT THE GORGE HAS MANIFESTED AGAIN. SCOUR THIS SITE FOR INFORMATION. BE PREPARED TO JOIN ME.
I WOULD SEE THIS "HELLHOLE" FOR MYSELF

KOKOLISTAN:
WHERE IS HE, BOY? WHERE'S THE MONSTER?
FFFVFVFFV FFFVFT
HE'S NOT IN THE CAPITAL CITY? YOU'RE SURE? THOUGHT HE'D GO RIGHT TO ZOD...
SO MAYBE KANCER HASN'T TOLD HIM YET. WE MIGHT STILL HAVE TIME.
TIME FOR WHAT, CLARK? HOW FAR ARE YOU WILLING TO GO.
...TO KEEP YOUR SECRET?
COME ON, BOY...
...LET'S END THIS

I... I SHOULD GO. I SHOULD TELLLL THE GENERAL.
NO ONE'S STOPPING YOU, YUKFACE. YOU'LL BE THE ABORTION OF THE CENTURY IF YOU DROP THAT TAB ON HIS ZODNESS.
YOU MAY NOT HAVE A NAME, BUT YOU KNOW THE FACE, THE PLACE -- EVEN SAW HIS WOMAN, RIGHT?
I SHOULD TELL... IT WILL MAKE THE GENERAL VERY HAPPY. IT WILL HURRRRT MY FATHER... VERY VERY MUCH.
AND HE WON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU EVER AGAIN, WILL HE?
NO... NOW... HE CANNOT. HE'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT ME NOWWWW.
CHOM
*AND NEITHER WILL I. *MY OWN LUCKY FREAKIN' CHARM.*

WE'RE GOING AWAY, KANCER. NOW.
NO ONE CAN KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW. DON'T FIGHT ME ON THIS. PLEASE.
HEH... HE WAS RIGHT AFFFFTER ALL... CLEVER MONSSSSTER.
HE SSSSAID YOU'D COME FOR ME. SSSSAID YOU'D CHALLENGE THE GENERAL FOR -- KRRK
PLEASE, KANCER... DON'T MAKE ME --
WHO WAS RIGHT? SOMEONE PUT YOU UP TO THIS?
NOW IF DAT AIN'T THE RUDEST! COME INTO MY HOME, SLAP AROUND MY GUESTS --
PPP
-- AN' I HAVE TO SUPPLY THE BEER? BAD FORM, PAL. YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DRINK DOUBLE TO MAKE UP.
PSSHT
DON'T STAND THERE LOOKING SO CLEAN AND DUMB, SUPES! I KNOW I BEEN THROUGH SOME CHANGES, BUT THIS IS A PARTY --


A WELCOME BACK FROM HELL PARTY, FOR YER OL' PAL GUY GARDNER!
HOPE YOU LIKE WHAT I'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE, 'CAUSE AFTER TONIGHT --
-- IT'S ALL YOURS!
TO BE CONTINUED

RE:ACTION

Dear Superteam:

I enjoyed ACTION #786. This is what Superman does best, selflessly saving an alien people simply because it is the right thing to do even if it means his own life.

Let me say that Pascal Ferry is a very good choice of artist for Superman, very impressive. I wish you would bring back the yellow in the shield soon though, but that is a personal opinion (aren't they all?). I must disagree with Chris Stansfield, however, when he says that replacing Byrne's Krypton with the one from the '60s is backwards. But I respect his opinion. I think that Kal-El lost something very important when he was no longer held in Lara's arms, as per the mythos, and I have always hated Byrne's sterile Krypton. In fact, I never liked Byrne and DC restarting everything after Crisis, and I dream of the day when the pre- and post-Crisis worlds can somehow be brought together. Multiple universe or so-called pocket universe, a horse by any other name is a horse — but I am rambling. Back to #786. All in all, a good book and the cover was superb.

MIKE (SUPERPAP) DANIELS
ADDRESS WITHHELD

Well, Superpap, you should come back for our planned "Return to Krypton" this summer in all the Superman books. It will finally resolve some of the questions regarding our disparate Krypton histories.

Dear Re:Action:

I have followed the Superman story continuously since before the Crisis. I have been reading Superman comic books since I was a kid (my uncle used to buy them, and since he didn't admit he liked Superman, he would give them to me). The Superman titles are the best there are. They show us the quality of human being he is... such an inspiration. In ACTION #786, he decided to help, knowing that under a red sun he may not come back. Once again, sacrificing everything to help. Lots of people do that (firefighters, police officers, etc.) for us, and sometimes only during difficult times (like 9-11) we bring ourselves to remember that. Keep up the good work.

BTW... please, bring the triangle numbers back!!!

MARIELA
SAN DIEGO, CA

Sorry, Mariela, and all others who loved the triangle numbers, but they are a thing of the past. With the Super-creators doing different storylines in their books that don't flow into the other titles, the numbers became obsolete. Some of you had been asking us to drop them, so we're gonna do it, but don't worry — the books will also go back to connect for the aforementioned Krypton story as well as something even bigger after that. In those cases the books will have a number connected to the story arc title. Longtime fans remember that that's how it all started with "Panic in the Sky," "Time After Time," and other classic stories which had their own numbering. We hope this will give everyone something they like.

Dear DC,

I have been reading Superman comics for many years, and this is the first letter that I have written concerning the Man of Steel. He has gone through several changes over the years, some rather drastic. But the way you are drawing his costume now I simply do not like at all. The yellow should be back in the "S" symbol on his chest. And on his cape as well. That little bit of yellow always added to the costume. It has been that way for years. It adds just the right amount of contrast. The way it is now makes Superman look darker. He is not Batman and should not look that way. Please change it back the way it was. Well, that's my opinion anyway. Thanks.

G. JAY
AUGUSTA, GA

We came up with the costume change as a way to show respect for the "dead" of "Our Worlds At War," but who knew it would also be appropriate to honor the real fallen after September 11? For the time being we're keeping it, but the future always brings change.
— Eddie B.
"Don't look, just fly."

NEXT WEEK:
In SUPERMAN #181 Superman is Bizarro?! Bizarro is Superman?! Freaky! Madness by Jeph Loeb, Ed McGuinness and Cam Smith.

NEXT MONTH:
In ACTION #790 everything goes to heck as the fate of Guy Gardner is decided by Joe Kelly, Duncan Rouleau, Keron Grant & Marlo Alquiza.

dccomics.com
KEYWORD: DC COMICS ON AOL

"Where is that Red Baron?" wonders Krypto in this cover by Duncan Rouleau and Marlo Alquiza with the colors of Tanya and Richard Horie.

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TEAM-DCP

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